United Nations A/65/672

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 December 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 59
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Letter dated 16 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Jorge Valero Briceño, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, on 14 December 2010, in the commemorative meeting on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 59.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, on 14 December 2010, in the commemorative meeting on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders so wish.

The British Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands.